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U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

# MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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Gordon P. Eaton, Director

Reston, VA 20192

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For information call:

Dennis Kostick, Commodity Specialist

Telephone: (703)648-7715, Fax (703)648-7722

E-mail: [dkostick@usgs.gov](mailto:dkostick@usgs.gov)

Jeff Milanovich (data), (703)648-7982

MINES-DATA: (703)648-7799

MINES FaxBack: (703)648-4999

Internet: <http://minerals.er.usgs.gov/minerals>

## SODA ASH AND SODIUM SULFATE IN OCTOBER 1996

Natural soda ash production in October was 864,000 metric tons, 5% higher than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 290,000 tons, a 30% increase from that of the preceding month. Wyoming trona production in October was 1,460,000 tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda as soda ash equivalent, based on data from all three producers, was 20,400 tons in October.

Apparent consumption of soda ash for September was

546,000 tons, 5% lower than the September 1995 level of 521,000 tons. Exports and imports of soda ash in September were 329,000 tons and 10,500 tons, respectively.

The cumulative soda ash statistics through September 1996, compared with those of the corresponding period in 1995, were as follows: production 1% lower, imports 26% higher, exports 5% higher, ending stocks 21% higher, and apparent consumption 2% lower.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT SODA ASH AND NATURAL SODIUM SULFATE STATISTICS 1/

Period	Soda ash (Thousand metric tons)		Natural sodium sulfate (Metric tons)	
	Production 2/	Ending stocks	Production	Ending stocks
1995:				
September	845	185	25,900	11,400
October	870	193	33,200	19,000
November	876	254	30,100	18,800
December	907	306	26,300	16,400
Total (Jan-Oct)	8,310	XX	271,000	XX
Total	10,100	XX	327,000	XX
1996:				
January	765	287	26,800	18,200
February	811	329	28,700	18,000
March	790	257	32,400	20,700
April	836	215	24,200	23,400
May	852	260	15,500	11,300
June	859	284	26,400	14,700
July	822	296	22,100	12,300
August	809	264	24,100	15,700
September	823	223	26,000	16,400
October	864	290 3/	30,700	21,200
Total	8,230	XX	257,000	XX

XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors for the current year 1996 are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

3/ Because of previously unreported inventory in remote locations by one producer, ending stocks will be somewhat higher than the level of prior months.

TABLE 2  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH AND SODIUM SULFATE 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Disodium carbonate		Salt Cake		Disodium Sulfate		Total	
	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)	Quantity	Value 2/ (thousands)	Quantity	Value 2/ (thousands)	Quantity	Value 2/ (thousands)
1995:								
September	334	45,200	9,760	923	2,490	226	12,200	1,150
October	320	41,700	1,390	111	671	187	2,060	298
November	275	36,600	1,580	131	487	170	2,070	301
December	286	36,300	10,400	793	192	84	10,600	877
Total (Jan-Sep)	2,690	331,000	46,100	3,830	5,560	1,950	51,700	5,780
Total	3,570	445,000	59,500	4,860	6,910	2,390	66,400	7,250
1996: 3/								
January	300	38,700	4,060	317	108	43	4,160	360
February	314	42,100	14,000	1,040	212	88	14,200	1,130
March	270	35,900	2,000	172	2,350	576	4,340	748
April	349	45,300	8,260	646	31	16	8,290	662
May	217	29,000	104	17	63	38	167	55
June	337	43,800	13,300	1,290	43	17	13,400	1,310
July	315	42,000	12,500	695	29	20	12,600	715
August	392	51,100	2,440	189	6,620	956	9,060	1,150
September	329	44,400	1,690	151	23	8	1,710	159
Total	2,820	372,000	58,400	4,520	9,480	1,760	67,900	6,280

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value at U.S. ports.

3/ October 1996 data not available at time of publication.

Source: Bureau of the Census, as adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey, using Journal of Commerce trade data and information.

TABLE 3  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, 1996 1/

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	Total Quantity	% of total
Argentina	13,000	--	8,950	--	--	--	22,200	--	17,100	61,300	2
Australia	--	--	5,000	--	--	--	5,000	25,100	--	35,100	1
Belgium	6,900	5,610	--	27,600	--	15,000	--	6,010	--	61,200	2
Bolivia	2,500	--	1,100	--	--	--	1,010	--	--	4,610	--
Brazil	34	42,300	17,800	7,050	--	--	5,040	28,000	--	100,000	4
Canada	16,700	21,300	23,900	14,100	17,300	20,200	26,900	21,700	15,200	177,000	6
Chile	21,900	--	19,100	--	17,200	--	24,600	--	17,200	99,900	4
China	13,000	--	8,000	4,970	4,500	--	4,500	--	--	35,000	1
Colombia	11,700	11,100	--	11,600	--	11,000	10,900	--	11,500	67,800	2
Costa Rica	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	4,000	4,000	--
Croatia	--	--	--	8,840	--	5,870	--	7,690	--	22,400	1
Dominican Republic	--	2,160	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,430	3,590	--
Ecuador	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5,960	5,960	--
El Salvador	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,000	--	--	1,000	--
Germany	--	--	124	--	42	--	--	--	--	166	--
Ghana	--	--	--	--	--	--	16	--	--	16	--
Guatemala	--	5	3,500	--	--	--	3,300	(2/)	4,920	11,700	--
Honduras	--	--	--	--	--	--	200	--	--	200	--
Hong Kong	--	--	40	--	63	71	--	--	--	174	--
India	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	23,000	--	23,000	1
Indonesia	23,500	25,500	44,400	42,100	23,600	35,100	26,500	40,100	32,500	293,000	10
Ireland	383	--	--	--	392	--	583	583	--	1,940	--
Israel	--	--	8,000	--	--	--	--	7,910	--	15,900	1
Jamaica	2,000	29	--	--	--	--	1,990	--	--	4,020	--
Japan	7,900	36,400	--	39,600	11,600	46,400	27,700	26,400	38,600	235,000	8
Korea, Republic of	15,100	22,700	5,290	43,600	27,100	30,800	54,800	22,700	21,900	244,000	9
Malaysia	10,500	--	--	8,800	12,500	--	9,920	12,400	15,700	69,900	2
Mexico	33,200	39,300	34,600	32,700	26,800	34,100	28,100	30,900	27,100	287,000	10
Netherlands	--	--	2	--	--	101	--	--	19	122	--
New Zealand	40	20	40	7,070	--	20	4,020	7,000	40	18,300	1
Panama	--	--	--	--	2,000	--	--	--	--	2,000	--
Peru	4,020	--	4,140	--	6,230	--	--	--	5,050	19,400	1
Philippines	12,300	12,300	10,000	--	11,300	13,800	--	13,700	--	73,200	3
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	15,000	15,000	1
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	299	299	--
Saudi Arabia	18,000	--	--	17,500	3,790	22,000	22,000	22,000	--	105,000	4
Singapore	--	--	--	4,970	--	--	--	3,000	4,000	12,000	--
South Africa	--	24,500	27,100	25,000	--	25,100	--	--	22,000	124,000	4
Spain	11,400	--	--	--	16,000	9,300	--	5,960	22,500	65,200	2
Sweden	--	--	--	32	--	--	--	--	36	68	--
Taiwan	21,700	13,600	21,200	12,900	15,500	--	22,600	17,900	20,500	146,000	5
Thailand	23,000	28,000	25,000	8,300	21,500	20,500	12,300	22,800	4,800	166,000	6
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	1,360	--	--	--	--	3,080	--	4,440	--
Turkey	--	--	--	7,310	--	--	--	7,000	--	14,300	1
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5,000	--	5,000	--
United Kingdom	--	1	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	2	--
Uruguay	--	--	1,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,000	--
Uzbekistan	--	--	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	7	--
Venezuela	30,800	29,200	--	24,500	--	47,900	--	32,400	21,500	186,000	7
Total	300,000	314,000	270,000	349,000	217,000	337,000	315,000	392,000	329,000	2,820,000	100

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 4  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH AND SODIUM SULFATE 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Disodium carbonate		Disodium Sulfate				Total	
	Value 3/		Saltcake 2/		Other		Value 3/	
	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)
1995:								
September	6,770	968	10,500	911	6,750	462	17,200	1,370
October	8,040	1,150	12,400	1,130	5,310	365	17,700	1,490
November	6,240	899	11,000	1,150	5,140	338	16,100	1,490
December	6,480	891	12,400	1,180	3,620	289	16,000	1,470
Total (Jan-Sep)	61,900	9,050	97,900	9,030	58,500	4,250	156,000	13,300
Total	82,700	12,000	134,000	12,500	72,600	5,250	206,000	17,700
1996: 4/								
January	8,130	1,140	12,000	1,120	4,070	276	16,000	1,390
February	7,400	1,050	10,300	966	3,260	279	13,600	1,250
March	9,460	1,330	13,500	1,150	2,920	220	16,400	1,370
April	8,510	1,200	11,200	993	1,950	186	13,100	1,180
May	8,440	1,130	13,700	1,330	1,690	184	15,400	1,510
June	8,770	1,200	14,400	1,400	2,250	342	16,600	1,750
July	8,630	1,180	9,940	987	3,800	405	13,700	1,390
August	8,310	1,140	11,700	1,110	2,940	270	14,600	1,380
September	10,500	1,440	14,400	1,400	1,550	193	15,900	1,590
Total	78,200	10,800	111,000	10,500	24,400	2,360	135,000	12,800

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes Glauber's salt.

3/ Customs, insurance, and freight (c.i.f) value at U.S. ports.

4/ October 1996 data not available at time of publication.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5  
U. S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption 2/
				Increase	or Decrease	
1995:						
September	845,000	6,770	334,000	--	3,000	521,000
October	870,000	8,040	320,000	8,000	--	550,000
November	876,000	6,240	275,000	61,000	--	546,000
December	907,000	6,480	286,000	52,000	--	575,000
Total (Jan-Sep)	7,440,000	61,900	2,690,000	--	18,000	4,830,000
Total	10,100,000	82,700	3,570,000	103,000	--	6,510,000
1996:						
January	765,000	8,130	300,000	--	19,000	493,000
February	811,000	7,400	314,000	42,000	--	462,000
March	790,000	9,460	270,000	--	72,000	602,000
April	836,000	8,510	349,000	--	42,000	538,000
May	852,000	8,440	217,000	45,000	--	598,000
June	859,000	8,770	337,000	24,000	--	506,000
July	822,000	8,630	315,000	12,000	--	503,000
August	809,000	8,310	392,000	--	32,000	457,000
September	823,000	10,500	329,000	--	41,000	546,000
October	864,000	NA	NA	67,000	--	NA
Total (Jan-Sep)	7,370,000	78,200	2,820,000	--	83,000	4,710,000

NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.

TABLE 6  
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN THE UNITED STATES, BY END USE, BY QUARTERS 1/

(Metric tons)

SIC Code	End use	1995				1996			
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Total through third quarter	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Total through third quarter
32	Glass:								
3221	Container	417,000	448,000	442,000	1,310,000	372,000	409,000	392,000	1,170,000
3211	Flat	236,000	245,000	254,000	735,000	218,000	252,000	261,000	731,000
3296	Fiber	52,500	52,700	54,300	159,000	59,500	58,600	58,600	177,000
3229	Other	63,400	60,900	62,000	186,000	66,100	60,700	60,100	187,000
	Total	769,000	807,000	812,000	2,390,000	716,000	780,000	771,000	2,270,000
281	Chemicals	407,000	373,000	423,000	1,200,000	381,000	406,000	439,000	1,230,000
284	Soaps and detergents	186,000	210,000	192,000	588,000	203,000	189,000	200,000	591,000
26	Pulp and paper	52,400	48,300	45,000	146,000	49,900	50,000	42,800	143,000
2899	Water treatment 2/	25,700	26,800	28,000	80,500	19,000	21,700	24,100	64,900
	Fluegas desulfurization	32,200	30,000	38,600	101,000	36,100	35,100	44,000	115,000
	Distributors	78,000	87,800	77,100	243,000	77,600	79,900	76,500	234,000
	Other	45,500	44,300	41,700	132,000	40,700 r/	42,700 r/	40,700	124,000
	Imports 3/	19,000	22,700	20,200	61,900	25,000	25,700	27,400	78,200
	Total domestic consumption	1,600,000	1,630,000	1,660,000	4,880,000	1,520,000 r/	1,600,000 r/	1,640,000	4,770,000
	Exports 4/	889,000	858,000	913,000	2,660,000	903,000	987,000	1,040,000	2,930,000
	Canada	50,200	41,200	45,000	136,000	52,500	50,500	57,700	161,000
	Total industry sales 5/	2,480,000	2,490,000	2,570,000	7,540,000	2,430,000 r/	2,590,000 r/	2,680,000	7,690,000
	Total sales from plants	2,380,000	2,440,000	2,490,000	7,310,000	2,300,000	2,520,000 r/	2,480,000	7,300,000
	Total production	2,400,000	2,490,000	2,540,000	7,440,000	2,370,000	2,550,000 r/	2,450,000	7,370,000

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors and purge liquors sold to powerplant for water treatment. Sales of mine water are excluded.

3/ Data are from the Bureau of the Census and may vary from the quantity reported by the producer/importer. Actual imports are proprietary data but have been distributed into appropriate end-use categories and included in "Total Domestic Consumption."

4/ As reported by producers. Includes Canada. Data may not necessarily agree with that reported by the Bureau of the Census for the same periods.

5/ Represents soda ash from domestic origin (production and inventory changes) and imports and for exports. Includes soda ash sold by coproducers and distributed by purchasers into appropriate end-use categories.